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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Recruiting of Industrial Technicians

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for Work in the Northeast

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- 1. Industries in the Northeast are still suffering from a shortage of trained technicians and are continuing their drives for recruiting new workers from China. The Northeast Ministry of Industry has been trying through its branch agencies in Tientsin, Peiping, Hankow, Shanghai, and Canton to enlist more trained personnel of all types, but the disagreeable climate and working conditions have keep most workers from any interest in the opening. Since ordinary employment procedures have proved unsuccessful, * the Manchurian government has begun negotiations with the nunicipal administrations of Tientsin and Peiping to transfer technicians to the Northeast officially. This move is so unpopular that many of the workers ordered to go north prefer to resign instead.
- 2. In Shanghai, a goal of eight thousand technicians was set for the recruitment, including men from the machinery, electricity, and building trades. As an inducement, the Shanghai Labor Bureau offered to workers who would sign up for the north a family allowance of three hundred catties of first grade rice. About three hundred men accepted the offer in early May and were quartered at the Hsin Ya (新 亞) Restaurant in Shanghai awaiting orders on 11 May.
- 3. In general, however, the Northeast government has received such poor response to its efforts that it has been forced to hire local personnel, including water tank repairmen and radio dealers. These individuals, for the most part, are not well-trained technically and have proved incapable of the work required of them. After scientific instruments in plants and laboratories had been stolen or damaged by members of this group, the authorities discharged all the local employees and put some in jail.
- 140 Each of the major government-operated factories, especially those at Anshan, Penchihu, and Fushun, has Soviet technicians assigned to it. Since the Soviets received about twenty times the quantity of food allotments given the Chinese, considerable ill-feeling has arisen between the native and foreign groups. In the smaller industries, Mhite Russian technicians are employed, but most of these are poorly qualified.

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Comment: Manchurian efforts to lure both technicians and factories to the north began in fall 1949 but have yielded few results.

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